

More PT drill sergeant!



Photo by Carrie David Ford

Sgt. Jeramy Loder, Company C, 1st Battalion, 61st Infantry Regiment drill sergeant, coaches second-day Basic Combat Training Soldiers performing the prone-row exercise Friday morning. From left are: Pvt. Joseph Demers, Pfc. Alexandria Gomez and Pfc. Omiesha Jackson.

Garrison welcomes new CSM

Chris Rasmussen
Leader Staff

A former Fort Jackson drill sergeant is returning to the installation to take the helm as garrison command sergeant major.

Command Sgt. Maj. Lewis J. Kellam assumed his duties Tuesday, replacing Command Sgt. Maj. Ronald Friday, who is retiring after 30 years of service to the Army.

The official Change of Responsibility and Retirement Ceremony is slated for 3 p.m., Feb. 2 at the MG Robert B. Solomon Center.

"I am very happy to be back here at Fort Jackson," said Kellam, who served at Fort Jackson between 1991 and 1994 first as a drill sergeant with Company D, 4th Battalion, 13th Infantry Regiment and then as an instructor at the Drill Sergeant School. "My goal is to continue to provide excellent customer service to our Soldiers, civilians and family members.

"My biggest goal, however, is to make this installation an Army Community of Excellence awardee," he said.

Kellam, who entered the Army in 1983, attended Basic Combat Training at Fort Dix, N.J., and Advanced Individual Training at Fort Jackson, as a personnel records specialist.

"Command Sergeant Major Kellam comes to us with a wealth of operational and installation management experience," said Col. Eddie Stephens, garrison commander. "His most recent assignment was garrison CSM at Hunter Army Airfield, Ga., a role he held the past two years."

He has held positions ranging from squad leader to first sergeant. Other past assignments include Service Company, 10th Special Forces Group, Fort Devens, Mass.; 24th Adjutant General Company, Fort Stewart, Ga.; two tours of duty with the 82nd Adjutant General Company, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, N.C.; 2nd Adjutant General Company, 2nd Infantry Division, Camp Casey, Korea; HHC, 130th Engineer Brigade, Hanau, Germany; A Detachment, 38th Personnel Services Battalion, United States Personnel Command; 509th Personnel Service Battalion, Camp Casey; HHC, 18th



CSM Kellam

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Fort Jackson Tax Center opens Monday

Chris Rasmussen
Leader Staff

It's that time of year again! Tax season can be a frustrating and difficult time for Soldiers who are already busy with their daily duties.

Free help is available, however, thanks to the Fort Jackson Tax Center, which will open its doors for service Monday. All service members, family members and retirees are eligible for the program.

"The Fort Jackson Tax Center has made two big changes for those who have utilized the program in the past," said Capt. Chris Roten, legal assistance attorney and Tax Center officer in charge. First, the center is now located in building R2101 on the corner of Marion Avenue and Supply Road.

The center is also implementing a "1040EZ Drop Off" for qualified individu-

als. This allows eligible members to drop off tax forms, have qualified Soldier tax preparers do all the work and file it electronically.

"If you are single with no dependents and are taking the standard deduction you may be eligible for this program," Roten said. "Also, married couples who have no dependents, are filing jointly and plan on taking the standard deduction might qualify."

All Soldiers preparing taxes are certified Volunteer Income Tax Preparers. In 2005, the Soldiers at the tax center prepared more than 1,700 tax returns and saved the Fort Jackson community approximately \$175,000 in tax preparation fees, Roten said.

"The Fort Jackson Tax Center is staffed by Fort Jackson permanent party Soldiers

from various units who have volunteered their time and energy to assist in preparing taxes," Roten said. "These Soldiers have all attended a course on tax preparation and unique military issues held by the Internal Revenue Service."

This year, the tax center will also prepare state income tax returns for those states that allow volunteer income tax preparers to provide assistance in filing their forms. If the Tax Center is unable to prepare your state return, they will provide all the tax forms needed for that state.

Qualifying persons entitled to tax assistance will be required to make an appointment and bring all appropriate documentation to their appointment. Documentation needed includes a valid Social Security card for all family members, federal wages

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**Leading
the
way ...**



All About MOUT

BCT Soldiers train for real-world situations.

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Soldiers Help Local Schools

Adopt-A-School program brings Soldiers and students together.

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Ask the Garrison Commander

Security and shipping; post offers golfing program



Col. Eddie Stephens Jr.

Q I am on assignment to Kuwait with temporary duty en route at Fort Riley, Kansas. I'm required to have a secret security clearance.

Can I proceed on the assignment if my clearance is not completed by my report date?

A Yes, you may continue on your assignment even though your security clearance is not complete.

The guidance for the assignment includes the message to "initiate and ship. Do not hold pending status of clearance."

The Soldier must initiate the clearance through his or her brigade S-3 upon notification of assignment.

Q My wife and I made a New Year's resolution to play golf. What programs are available for instruction that will introduce us to the game?

A The staff of Fort Jackson Golf Club offers a number of programs specifically designed to help golfers of all skill levels.

The staff of PGA professionals provides individual private lessons, monthly free lessons starting in March and customized clinics for groups of all sizes. If you are interested in these programs, call the golf club for information. Additionally, the Fort Jackson Golf Club has a Link Up 2 Golf program scheduled to begin March 13.

The Link Up 2 Golf program focuses on introducing new players to golf. Students will receive six hours of instruction and four hours of supervised play on the

course. The Link Up 2 Golf program is designed to make new players comfortable with playing the game and visiting the golf club. The fee for the Link Up 2 Golf program is \$99 per person and includes equipment, range balls, etc. Class size is limited to 12 students. Call the golf club for additional information at 787-4437 or 4344.

Garrison Fact of the Week

After 35 years of dedicated government service, the NCO Club catering manager, Lori Hinson, is retiring. We wish happiness and good health in her retirement. The NCO Club's new catering manager is Loli Ybarra. If planning an event or private party, call 751-2218.

To submit questions for the "Ask the Garrison Commander", call 751-2842, or e-mail nahrwolds@jackson.army.mil.

Commentary

Why are Americans unhappy? A new spin for 2007

Chaplain (Col.) Roger Heath
Installation Chaplain

Newsweek magazine recently conducted a poll which showed that 67 percent of Americans are unhappy with the direction the country is headed and 69 percent of the country is unhappy with the performance of the president. In essence two thirds of the citizenry are unhappy and want a change. It begs the question, why are we unhappy?

Craig R. Smith, in an article dated Nov. 20, said the following:

"Is it that we have electricity and running water 24 hours a day, seven days a week? Is our unhappiness the result of having air conditioning in the summer and heating in the winter? Could it be that 95.4 percent of these unhappy folks have a job? Maybe it is the ability to walk into a grocery store at any time and see more food in one moment than Darfur has seen in the last year?

Maybe it is the ability to drive from the Pacific Ocean to the Atlantic Ocean without having to present identification papers as we travel through each state? I

guess having thousands of restaurants with varying cuisine from around the world is just not good enough. Or could it be that when we wreck our car, emergency workers show up and provide services to help all involved. Whether you are rich or poor they treat your wounds and even, if necessary, send a helicopter to take you to the hospital.

Perhaps you are one of the 70 percent of Americans who own a home. You may be upset with knowing that in the unfortunate case of having a fire, a group of trained firefighters will appear in moments and use top notch equipment to extinguish the flames thus saving you, your family and your belongings. Or if, while at home watching one of your many flat screen TVs, a burglar or prowler intrudes; an officer equipped with a gun and a bullet-proof vest will come to defend you and your family against attack or loss. This all in the backdrop of a neighborhood free of bombs or militias raping and pillaging the residents. Neighborhoods where 90 percent of teenagers own cell phones and computers.

How about the complete religious, social and political freedoms we enjoy that are the envy of everyone in the world? Maybe that is what has 67 percent of you folks unhappy."

Smith goes on to say the United States may be the largest group of spoiled citizens in the world. Fact is, we have it pretty good here. When one gets past the blaring headlines on the news, the country is in extremely good shape.

Being a Soldier and serving voluntarily, I've seen enough of the world to know we have the best of almost everything. No one is more grateful for what we have than those who have been out of country and seen what the rest of the world has to offer. Perhaps there is a reason millions of folks want to move to the United States rather than live in their own "motherland."

Smith closes with a B.C. Forbes quote from 1953:

"What have Americans to be thankful for? More than any other people on the Earth, we enjoy complete religious freedom, political freedom, and social free-

dom. Our liberties are sacredly safeguarded by the Constitution of the United States, 'the most wonderful work ever struck off at a given time by the brain and purpose of man.' Yes, we Americans of today have been bequeathed a noble heritage. Let us pray that we may hand it down unsullied to our children and theirs."

I suggest we sit back and count our blessings for all we have. If we don't, what we have could be taken away. Then we will have to explain to future generations why we squandered such blessings and abundance. If we are not careful, this generation will be known as the "greediest generation." A far cry from the proud Americans of the "greatest generation" who left us an untarnished legacy."

Think I'll spend more time enjoying my family and friends and the good our nation has to offer, and not focus so much on the "nitpicky issues" of some newspaper editor, the "opinions" of some talking head on TV or the "unbiased views" of politicians. I've decided instead to have a great 2007. I invite you to do the same.

The Fort Jackson

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Luncheon honors King's legacy of promoting peace

Heath Hamacher
Leader Staff

Nearly 600 people packed into the MG Robert B. Solomon Center to learn about the life and teachings of Martin Luther King Jr. during Fort Jackson's celebration, hosted by the 1st Combat Training Brigade on Jan. 11.

The theme for this year's observance was "Remember! Celebrate! Act! A Day On, Not a Day Off!" Sgt. 1st Class Timothy Gladders, Equal Opportunity adviser, 1st Combat Training Brigade, said the program's intent was to educate, promote diversity and spread cultural awareness throughout the Fort Jackson community.

"It's a national theme that means to remember the life and legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. and the accomplishments he made," Gladders said. "'Celebrate' means celebrate his life and 'act' means to be sure to act on King's principles, which were social change by nonviolent means."

After Dr. Willis C. Ham, director of the Columbia campus of Webster University, delivered a tribute to King, guests enjoyed a buffet-style lunch and guest speaker Charles P. Austin Sr., Columbia's city manager, took the podium. Austin is Columbia's first black city manager and was the city's first black chief of police, a title he held 1990-2001.

Austin said Martin Luther King Jr. Day is especially significant because we need to remember that King challenged each one of us to build and leave our own legacy.

"There are three points I'd like to make," Austin said, referring to goals in one's life. "You need to be something, you need to do something and you need to leave something. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was a light. We've spent too much time looking beyond ourselves expecting to see someone else who is supposed to take the lead."

Martin Luther King Jr. Day is observed the third Monday of January, close to King's Jan. 15 birthday. This



Displays were set up inside the MG Robert B. Solomon Center to provide information about the life and teachings of Martin Luther King Jr.

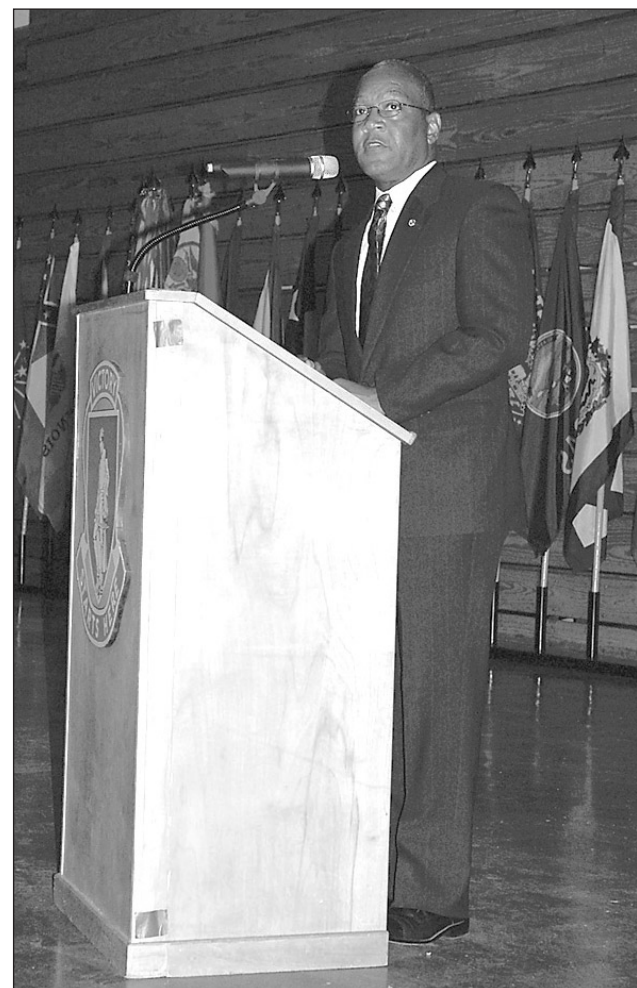
federal holiday has been observed since 1986, and has been recognized in all 50 states since Jan. 17, 2000.

Before being assassinated in 1968, King became the youngest person to win the Nobel Peace Prize, awarded for his work as a peacemaker, promoting nonviolence and equal treatment among people of all races.

King is perhaps best known for his "I Have a Dream" speech, given in 1963 in front of the Lincoln Memorial. Austin said he feels it's time for the dream to become a reality.

"We've spent a certain amount of time since Dr. King's death reliving the dream, saying the dream lives on," Austin said. "I keep asking myself when we are supposed to wake up, because it was not intended to become a perpetual dream. He shared with us a vision that was intended for us to move forward."

Heath.Hamacher@jackson.army.mil



Photos by Heath Hamacher

Charles P. Austin Sr., Columbia city manager, addressed the crowd of approximately 600 during Fort Jackson's Martin Luther King Jr. birthday observance on Jan. 11 at the MG Robert B. Solomon Center.

IMCOM Southeast region director retires

Installation Management Agency

Fort McPherson, Ga. — The Installation Management Command — Southeast bid farewell to its first and only director in ceremonies here on Jan. 10.

Joseph H. Plunkett, a career civilian servant and member of the Senior Executive Service, was officially retired during a ceremony hosted by Brig. Gen. John A. Macdonald, Installation Management Command deputy commanding general. Plunkett had more than 35 years of government service, including the last four years as director, IMCOM — Southeast.

"Soldiers have better training facilities because of Joe Plunkett," Macdonald said during his remarks at the ceremony. "Soldiers have better barracks and housing because of Joe Plunkett, and Soldiers have been better prepared to fight because of Joe Plunkett."

Plunkett assumed duties as the region director, Southeast Region on Oct. 1, 2002 and the responsibility for overseeing installation support in a region consisting of eight states in the southeastern United States as well as Fort Buchanan,

Puerto Rico.

The Southeast Region encompasses almost one-third of the Army's population and has a key role in fighting the war on terrorism.

"The installations in the Southeast, like other installations in the Army, have been the projection platform for our combat forces in the fight on the global war on terrorism," Plunkett said during his farewell remarks. "One of the most important aspects of garrison support to the war effort is to they take care of the Soldiers' families while they are deployed and in the fight, ensuring that they have the things needed to sustain them while their spouse or family member is deployed."

Plunkett served as an enlisted Soldier in the Army in the early 1970s and after being discharged, embarked on a career as a civilian servant that saw him serve at the U.S. Army Recruiting Command then headquartered at Fort Sheridan, Ill., and subsequently at U.S. Army Forces Command, Fort McPherson, Ga. He served with the U.S. Army Headquarters in Europe for three years beginning in 1985 before returning to FORSCOM to



Plunkett

serve as chief of the base realignment and closure office in 1988. He was appointed to the Senior Executive Service in 1998.

During the ceremony, Plunkett was presented with the Department of the Army Decoration for Exceptional Service and various certificates and mementos. Plunkett's spouse, Libette Plunkett, was awarded the Outstanding Civilian Service Medal.

Plunkett was also presented the prestigious IMCOM Stalwart Award at a separate event.

Plunkett doesn't have any immediate plans after his retirement and intends to become more involved with his community and to spend more time with his family.

A successor for Plunkett has yet to be named. Col. Angela Manos-Sittnick, Deputy Director, will serve as acting region director until a replacement is named.

Tax Center

(continued from Page 1)

forms (W-2), interest statements, investment dividend forms and 2005 tax returns. Other important information may include bank/investment statements and any other income statements. In addition, homeowners should provide information relating to property taxes and interest paid on their homes and mortgages.

"When calling to make an appointment, participants will be reminded of what to bring, but it is the participant's responsibility to provide all necessary documentation to the tax preparer," Roten said. "The tax center's mission is to provide quality income tax assistance with great customer service to qualifying service members, family members and retirees."

Individuals will be seen on an appointment-basis only. Appointments can be scheduled 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. The center will also stay open until 6:30 p.m., Jan. 22 through Feb. 2. Call 751-JTAX to set up an appointment.

The tax center will make a determination based on client needs if any weekend appointments will be available, Roten said.

Chris.Rasmussen@jackson.army.mil

Around Post

2007 Post Guides Ready for Pickup

The Fort Jackson 2007 Post Guides and Phone Directory have arrived and are ready for pick-up at the Public Affairs Office, 4394 Strom Thurmond Blvd. Call 751-1742/3615 to schedule a time for large unit pick-up or for more information.

Brigade Reflaggings Set

The 4th Combat Training Brigade will hold a reflagging ceremony at 2 p.m., Jan. 26 at Vanguard Forward Operating Base. The brigade's new designation will be the 165th Infantry Brigade, with the motto "Lightning. Strike Strong."

The 1st Combat Training Brigade will hold a reflagging ceremony at 2 p.m., Jan. 31 in front of brigade headquarters. The brigade's new designation will be the 193rd Infantry Brigade, with the motto "No Ground to Give."

Victory Brigade will hold a reflagging ceremony at 8 a.m., March 16 at Darby Field. The brigade's new designation will be the 171st Infantry Brigade.

Finance School Name Changes

A redesignation ceremony for the U.S. Army Finance School will be held at 1:30 p.m., Jan. 26 at the U.S. Army Soldier Support Institute finance wing. The school is being renamed the U.S. Army Financial Management School. To attend, R.S.V.P. by Friday by e-mailing Tyrone.Lee@jackson.army.mil or Nisha.Dowdell@jackson.army.mil or by calling 751-8642.

Recruiters top December goals

John J. Kruzel

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, Jan. 11 — Last month's recruiting figures for all military services exceeded goals, Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates said during testimony Jan. 11 before the House Armed Services Committee.

"I'm pleased to report that all active branches of the United States military exceeded their recruiting goals for the month of December," Gates said, "with particularly strong showings by the Army and the Marine Corps."

In December, the Army recruited 861 soldiers, exceeding its goal by 23 percent, according to information released by the Defense Department. The Marine Corps recruited 1,761, exceeding its goal by 10 percent, and the Navy and Air Force met their recruitment goals of 2,071 and 2,330,

respectively.

Additionally, the Army National Guard, Army Reserve, Marine Corps Reserve, Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve exceeded their recruiting goals in December.

Gates' comments come a day after President Bush announced his plan to increase the Army's and Marine Corps' overall strength.

"We propose to (increase) in annual increments of 7,000 troops a year for the Army and 5,000 for the Marine Corps until the Marine Corps reaches a level of 202,000, and the Army would be at 547,000," Gates said at a news conference this morning.

"We should recognize that while it may take some time for these new troops to become available for deployment," Gates said, "it is important that our men and

women in uniform know that additional manpower and resources are on the way."

Gates then reflected on those who volunteered to serve in the U.S. armed forces.

"Our nation is truly blessed that so many talented and patriotic young people have stepped forward to defend our nation and that so many servicemen and women have chosen to continue to serve," he said at the news conference.

Gates' remarks today about the value of recruits echo President Bush's comments during his speech yesterday outlining the new way forward in Iraq.

"In these dangerous times, the United States is blessed to have extraordinary and selfless men and women willing to step forward and defend us," Bush said. "These young Americans understand that...the advance of freedom is the calling of our time."

Safety officer's 'Rat Claw' saves lives

Spc. Chris McCann

2nd Brigade Combat Team

10th Mountain Division

CAMP STRIKER, Iraq, Jan. 16 — One of the top killers of Soldiers in Iraq isn't necessarily combat related. Since operations began there in 2003, many Soldiers have died trying to escape Humvees that have rolled into Iraq's numerous irrigation canals.

When an armored truck is upside down or on its side, it can take three Soldiers to push a door open wide enough for passengers to escape. Doors sunken into mud are nearly impossible to open.

"If you go into a canal, there's a really good chance you won't come out alive," said Bill Del Solar, safety officer for the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division.

After some experimentation, he developed the Rat Claw, a flat, steel hook that attaches to almost anything — the Humvee's built-in winch or towing hook, a chain set or aircraft cable. One tug with another vehicle can open the door, or if necessary pull it completely off.

"If you get a little momentum, you can pull anything off," Del Solar said.

The operation typically takes less than a minute. In the worst cases, it can take three minutes from the time the vehicle goes into the water.

The human brain can go three to four minutes without oxygen before suffering damage, Del Solar pointed out.

"It's a reasonable amount of time for a rescue," he said.

The 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment, 2nd BCT, 10th Mountain Division, recently used the Rat Claw when a Humvee flipped over in an IED explosion. The doors were damaged by the force of the blast, but Soldiers were able to open the vehicle and extract their wounded comrades, including Lt. Col. Michael Infanti, their battalion commander.

"I remember I was pinned inside the truck," said Infanti. "Fuel



Photo by Spc. Chris McCann

A Humvee door is pulled off during a demonstration of the Rat Claw, a flat, steel hook developed by Bill Del Solar, safety officer for the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division. Del Solar developed the Rat Claw to aid in extraction of Soldiers from Humvees when the doors are damaged or wedged shut.

was dripping on me. I was in pain, but the Soldiers did extremely well and the Rat Claw worked. It took one try and I was out of the vehicle.

"Honestly, I don't know how they would've gotten me out with the equipment we had on hand, if we didn't have the Rat Claw," he said.

The Rat Claw can be used to turn a vehicle over or even pull it completely out of a canal.

"We hope it will save lives by making it easier for fellow Soldiers to rescue each other," said Del Solar.

CSM (continued from Page 1)

Soldier Support Group, Fort Bragg; HHD, 18th Airborne Corps Artillery, Fort Bragg.

Kellam and his wife, Margaret, have one daughter, Maya. He has an associate degree in general studies from Central Texas College and a bachelor's degree in human resource management from Tourou International University, Calif.

His military education includes the Primary Leadership Development Course, Basic Noncommissioned Officers Course, Advanced Noncommissioned Officers Course, First Sergeant Course, Command Sergeants Major Course, Drill Sergeant School, Master Fitness Course and Airborne School.

Awards he has received include the Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, seven Army Good Conduct Awards, National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism

Medal, Korean Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Services Medal, NATO Medal, Kuwait Liberation Medal, Meritorious Unit Citation, Army Superior Unit Award, Drill Sergeant Badge, Order of Saint Barbara, German Parachute Wings and the Parachutist Badge.

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Well-Being Corner

Volunteers sought for annual AFAP conference

Tanya Brown
AFAP Coordinator

Fort Jackson will conduct a one-day Army Family Action Plan Conference March 29, as part of the Fort Jackson Customer Service Management process.

The process consists of a comprehensive, three-tiered feedback system based on input from individuals, constituent groups and mission commanders. Constituent feedback is done on a quarterly basis and called Community FIRST.

The Community FIRST Issue Resolution process has enabled us to review and resolve issues throughout the year. Feedback gathered from Soldiers (Active, National Guard and Reserve), family members, civilian employees, retirees, veterans and the newly added surviving spouses groups has saved countless man-hours and achieved higher results in resolving issues.

However, as in any process some issues are beyond the control of the directorates

or organizations on Fort Jackson to resolve based on funding or personnel resources and are declared unattainable at the local level. Also, some issues surfaced during the year are still being worked and considered active.

These active or unattainable issues will be worked during the AFAP Conference to determine if the constituents would like to pursue them at a higher level.

The AFAP Conference attendees will include the garrison commander, the deputy garrison commander, garrison command sergeant major, constituent group representatives, unit representatives from all organizations on Fort Jackson, and the directors and managers of the organizations that support the Fort Jackson community.

The attendees will be divided into two groups. The groups will review and discuss issues that were deemed unattainable or are currently active.

They will then have the chance to

develop, discuss and prioritize the issues or develop any new issues pertaining to their constituent group.

Each group will brief the commanding general and the conference attendees on their issues. The commanding general will decide which issues cannot be resolved on the installation and forwarded to a higher level. The results from the AFAP Conference will be published in the Fort Jackson Leader and on the Fort Jackson Well-Being Web site.

A total of 30-40 delegates will participate in the AFAP Conference in two groups of 15-20. Each group will consist of Soldiers, family members, civilian employees, retirees, veterans and surviving spouses. If you would like to volunteer as a delegate or in some other capacity, contact the AFAP coordinator at 751-3425/5547, no later than Feb. 28.

As a reminder, you can submit issues for the 2007 fiscal year second quarter through the Well-Being home page or

Community FIRST/AFAP Interactive Customer Evaluation link, whether it affects Fort Jackson or the entire Army. Feedback is important. Please help us help the community by submitting issues and recommendations online at:

<http://www.jackson.army.mil/WellBeing/Wellbeing.htm> Click on "Submit an Issue or Recommendation" or click on the AFAP Logo to submit issues.

ICE Appreciation

The garrison would like to congratulate the Directorate of Morale, Welfare and Recreation, Business Operations Division, specifically the Fort Jackson Officers' Club and the Directorate of Human Resources, specifically Army Continuing Education Services. They have maintained a 4.95 and a 4.92 percent respectively in employee/staff attitude rating out of a possible 5.0, for a 12-week period. Keep up the good work.

Army reduces accident fatalities

U.S. Army Combat Readiness Center

FORT RUCKER, Ala., Jan. 16 — The Army achieved a 20-percent reduction in accident fatalities in fiscal year 2006 according to a recent report on safety, available at <https://crc.army.mil/Report/Fy06yearend.doc>.

Driving mishaps were the leading category of accidental fatalities. Although driving fatalities decreased by 13 percent in FY2006 compared to FY2005, the category still represented 65 percent of the Army's accident-related fatalities.

"What is never acceptable is the loss of a Soldier (or Soldiers) to preventable accidents," said Brig. Gen. William H. Forrester, director of Army Safety and commanding general of the U.S. Army Combat Readiness Center.

To address trends in privately owned vehicle accidents, the Army has implemented such initiatives as the Army Safety Management Information System (version two), the Motorcycle Mentorship Program and the Driving as a Life Skill Program.

"Over the past two years, ASMIS-2 users were three times less likely to be involved in a fatal POV accident than non-ASMIS users," said Forrester. "However, the value of the tool itself is not in the computer online input, it is in the one-on-one

interaction between the Soldier and his supervisor. It, again, comes down to leader engagement at all echelons that saves lives."

The Army Readiness Assessment Program offers commanders a collective view of their units' climate and safety performance. This Web-based survey identifies battalion-level units most at risk for mishaps, and identifies areas at which leaders should focus their efforts.

ARAP statistics over the past eight months show that battalions scoring in the lower quarter are 50 percent more likely to experience a Class-A mishap than those scoring in the top quarter.

"The results from safety programs and tools such as ARAP arm leadership with the information and action steps they need to then use on points of failure within their formations," Forrester said. "This provides leadership and commanders the ability to adjust safety climate, risk management practices, leadership, and processes that enhance high performance in their formation and decrease loss overall within the Army."

According to the Army Safety and Occupational Health Strategic Plan issued by Secretary of the Army Francis Harvey and Army Chief of Staff Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker, the Army goal is to reduce accident rates by 75 percent by fiscal 2008, using fiscal 2002 as the baseline.

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own the EDGE
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Soldiers: warriors, heroes, mentors

Chris Rasmussen

Leader Staff

A Soldier's day can be very hectic. Physical training before the sun rises and countless tasks throughout the day leaves little time for volunteer work.

Fort Jackson warriors, however, are still finding time to give back to local schools in a big way. The Adopt-A-School program pairs elementary, middle and high schools with Soldiers for everything from helping with sporting activities to mentoring and helping in the classroom.

"There are so many things Soldiers can do to help our local schools," said Ruth Russell, Fort Jackson's school liaison officer. "And when we help our local schools, we are really helping military kids because just about all of the schools around here have the children of Soldiers in them."

Individual Soldiers or entire units may participate in the program and earn volunteer hours for their unit, which shows up on quarterly reports. Awards will be given to units with the most volunteer hours.

Schools send in a wish list for activities they would like help with and Soldiers are able to read the list and volunteer for whatever activity interests them.

"Sometimes a couple of Soldiers want to do it, but the whole unit doesn't want



Photo by Chris Rasmussen

Staff Sgt. Natasha Ramirez, a drill sergeant with Victory Brigade, chats with second-grade students from Killian Elementary School on Thursday before presenting a program on Martin Luther King Jr.

to. Well, they can still go out," Russell said. "It really puts a good face for the Army out in the civilian world."

Several noncommissioned officers from Victory Brigade spent Thursday morning at Killian Elementary School speaking to children about Martin Luther King Jr.

"I love being around children," said Staff Sgt. Harmon Blackshire, training NCO. "It is a great opportunity for us to be able to come out and share Martin Luther King Jr.'s dream with today's youth."

Eric Brown, principal of Killian Elementary School, said he was elated to

have the group of Soldiers come in and speak to his students.

"We really appreciate these Soldiers' efforts in coming to our school," he said. "We welcome not only Soldiers, but the entire community. We are a community school and we welcome anyone to come in and share their life experiences with our children."

In the past, Fort Jackson Soldiers have visited local schools to help with standardized testing, field trips, service projects and other curricular activities. They have also been requested to perform drill and ceremony and describe what it's like to be a Soldier.

"Children really get a kick learning about the Army. The Drill Sergeant School went out to a school a while back and showed the kids how to do PT (physical training), what an MRE (meal ready to eat) is, the different equipment a Soldier uses and the Warrior Ethos," Russell said.

There is still a great need for Soldiers to volunteer for the program, Russell said.

"I want to encourage more Soldiers to volunteer and I want to give them more ways to do it," she said. "The schools are just starting to send in wish lists. As soon as Soldiers start going out and filling these wish lists, we will start getting more."

Chris.Rasmussen@jackson.army.mil

Auditions scheduled for Arsenic and Old Lace

Theresa O'Hagan

Morale, Welfare and Recreation

Calling all frustrated actors! Your dreams of performing can become a reality this year.

The Victory Players working with the Community Recreation Division will hold auditions for *Arsenic and Old Lace*, at 7 p.m., Feb. 5-6 in the Joe E. Mann ballroom.

There are parts available for four women and nine men. "You don't need to prepare anything for the auditions," said Chuck Stoudemire, recreation programmer, CRD.

"We are also looking for set builders, lighting technicians, costumers, make-up artists, sound technicians, ticket sellers and ushers."

Auditions are open to all military members, retired

military, veterans, family members and all civilians.

The play will be presented as a dinner-theater beginning at 7 p.m., and the curtain will rise at 8 p.m.

The show will be held in the Joe E. Man ballroom scheduled for April 20, 21, 27 and 28.

"The performance will also be entered in the Army's Festival of Performing Arts," Stoudemire said.

with his crazy family and local police in Brooklyn, N.Y., as he debates whether to go through with marrying the woman he loves.

His family include two spinster aunts who have taken to murdering lonely old men by poisoning them with a glass of home-made elderberry wine laced with arsenic, strychnine and "just a pinch" of cyanide; a brother who believes he's Teddy Roosevelt and who digs locks for the Panama Canal in the cellar of the Brewster home; and a criminally murderous brother who has received plastic surgery from alcoholic

accomplice Dr. Einstein (a character based on real-life gangland surgeon Joseph Moran) to conceal his identity.

For more information or to volunteer contact Peggy Cornwell at 782-6041.

Auditions! Auditions! Auditions!

Arsenic and Old Lace is a black comedy play written in 1939, by American playwright Joseph Kesselring.

The play is a farce revolving around Mortimer Brewster, a theater-hating drama critic who must deal



Today

Victory Bingo is

4:30-10:30 p.m. at

12500 Huger St. Play

for more than \$25,000 in prizes.

Friday

Miss Lucy's Full Moon Pig Picking

5:30 - 8 p.m. at the Officers' Club. The cost is free to members and \$5 for guests.

Play **Victory Bingo** and win prizes up to \$15,000. Guaranteed \$50 pay-outs.

Magraders features DJ Mike Lockaby and DJ Perry playing all the favorites.

Saturday

Every Saturday come out to the **Excalibur Lounge** in the NCO Club and enjoy music at 9 p.m. with the Big DM. Military cost is \$3 and civilian cost is \$5.

Sunday

Horseback Riding will be from 11

a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Marion Street Station.

Did you know that it is a guarantee for \$4,000 to be given away during **Victory Bingo** every time it's played? Grab a share, play bingo 12:30-4:30 p.m.

Every Sunday is Super Sunday at **Century Lanes**. Bowl and get shoe rentals for \$1.

Monday

Watch Monday Night Football on

Magraders Sports Bar's new plasma screen televisions.

Tuesday

The next **EFMP Group Meeting** will be at 6 p.m. at Army Community Service.

There will be a **Partners in Education, Local Action Plan Revision Meeting** from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., at the Officers' Club.

The **Dart League** begins at 5:30 p.m. at Magraders and will be on Thursdays.

Visit Magraders for **free movies** —

always the latest releases.

The Officers' Club is having a **Southern Style Lunch Buffet** from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Wednesday

Be a singing sensation with **Karaoke** at **Magraders Sports Bar** starting at 7:30 p.m.

Enjoy **Mongolian Barbecue, Asian Stir-Fry** at the Officers' Club. You don't have to be an officer or a member.

Join the "Beat" 100.1 FM with the sounds of Bobby Brown and the Beat, hosted by Timmy Tim at the **NCO Club** from 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.

The bar opens in **Liberty Lounge** at 5 p.m.; cover charge is \$3 for military and \$5 for civilians.

Ongoing Offers

The **NCO Club** presents a delicious **breakfast buffet** 6-9 a.m., weekdays. The cost for adults is \$5.50; the cost for children 4-10 years old is \$2.95.

The **NCO Club lunch buffet** is

served from 11 a.m. to 1:15 p.m., daily. The cost is \$6.50, adults, \$2.95, children.

The **NCO Club soup and salad bar** features assorted fresh vegetables, a hearty soup, mixed salad and fresh fruit for \$6.50.

Enjoy resort accommodations for two to six people for less than you would pay for most hotels with the **Armed Forces Vacation Club**.

For details and samples of resort availability, call the reservation center at (800) 724-9988. The installation number for Fort Jackson is 164.

Did You Know?

Child care fees are based on Total Family Income (not rank or grade). Care during duty hours is work-related, so fees are based on your family's ability to pay a fair share.

The Army makes no profit, but funds the difference in what you pay and the actual cost of child care. Slots are available at Scales Avenue Child Development Center, call 752-6225.

Ask the DENTAC commander

Road to good dental health



Col. Michael Fulkerson

Q What causes bad breath?

A If you don't brush and floss daily, particles of food remain in the mouth, collecting bacteria, which can cause bad breath. Food that collects between the teeth, on the tongue and around the gums can

rot, leaving an unpleasant odor. Dentures that are not cleaned properly can also harbor odor-causing bacteria and food particles.

What you eat also affects the air you exhale. Certain foods, such as garlic and onions, contribute to objectionable breath odor. Once the food is absorbed into the bloodstream, it is transferred to the lungs, where it is expelled. Brushing, flossing and mouthwash will only mask the odor temporarily. Odors continue until the body eliminates the food. Dieters may develop unpleasant breath from infrequent eating.

Q Should I brush or floss first?

A It doesn't matter as long as you do a thorough job. Look for products that have the American Dental Association's "Seal of Acceptance." Choose a toothbrush that feels comfortable in your hand and in your mouth, and use it twice a day.

While tooth brushing removes plaque from tooth surfaces, it can't do the entire job of removing plaque. Cleaning between the teeth daily with floss or other interdental cleaner removes debris from between the teeth, where your toothbrush cannot reach.

Q What are the benefits of a dental X-ray examination?

A Many diseases of the teeth and surrounding tissues cannot be seen when your dentist examines your mouth. An X-ray examination may reveal:

- small areas of decay between the teeth or below existing restorations (fillings)
- infections in the bone
- periodontal (gum) disease
- abscesses or cysts
- developmental abnormalities
- some types of tumors

Finding and treating dental problems at an early stage can save time, money and unnecessary discomfort. It can detect damage to oral structures not visible during a regular exam. If you have a hidden tumor, radiographs may even help save your life.

Q How often should X-rays be taken?

A How often X-rays (radiographs) should be taken depends on the patient's individual health needs. It is important to recognize that just as each patient is different from the next, so should the scheduling of X-ray exams be individualized for each patient. Your dentist will review your history, examine your mouth and then decide whether you need radiographs and what type. If you are a new patient, the dentist may recommend radiographs to determine the present status of the hidden areas of your mouth and to help analyze changes that may occur later. If you have had recent radiographs at your previous dentist, your new dentist may ask you to have the radiographs forwarded.

If you would like to submit a question for Ask the MEDDAC or DENTAC Commander, call 751-2061 or e-mail Nakia.Hall@se.amedd.army.mil.

New Upgrade at the Pharmacy

The new Pharmacy 2000 automation equipment, which will enhance patient safety and reduce medication errors, has arrived and has been installed. The staff is being trained and patients should expect longer waits and delays during the next 90 days. Your patience is greatly appreciated. For more information call 751-2259.

Pharmacy

Refill prescriptions online at <http://www.moncrief.amedd.army.mil/>. Look for "Pharmacy Refills Online" on the right side of the Web page. The Post Exchange Refill Pharmacy is the only site to pick up refills called in or ordered online.

MEDDAC requires a signed authorization form to be completed before a spouse, family member or friend can pick up someone else's prescriptions.

Main Outpatient Pharmacy: open from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., weekdays (in the MACH basement).

Refill Pharmacy: open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., weekdays (in the Post Exchange Annex).

Main Outpatient Clinic 751-2385

Refill, Voice 751-4609

Refill, Automated 751-2250

Toll-free refill (866) 489-0950

Gastric Bypass Support Group

The Gastric Bypass Support Group will meet at 6 p.m., the second Tuesday of the month in the MACH eighth floor waiting room.

For more information call 751-0392. This is not just for weight loss patients; all who are interested are welcome to attend.

Adopt a Pet

Call the veterinary clinic for information 751-7160/5132 on

adopting a cat or dog.

Medical Records

Medical records are the property of the U.S. government and must be turned in at the Medical Records Station upon enrolling at MACH. Call 751-2471 for a copy of records.

Soldiers to be treated at Hagen Dental Clinic

All Fort Jackson permanent party dental records have been transferred to Hagen Dental Clinic. Soldiers with scheduled appointments will be treated there, and those reporting for dental sick call may do so 7:15-10 a.m. and 1:15-2:30 p.m., weekdays. Any questions regarding this change, call 751-5820.

TRICARE Online

Beneficiaries enrolled in TRICARE Prime at MACH can schedule an appointment 24 hours a day, seven days a week at www.tricare-online.com or www.moncrief.amedd.army.mil. For more information call 751-0338.

TRICARE Online Kiosks

TRICARE online kiosks are located at the post library, the MG Robert B. Solomon Center, the Strom Thurmond Building, the hospital, the golf course, the refill pharmacy, the Education center, the Palmetto Lodge and the Post Exchange. These kiosks allow eligible patients optimize access to health care through Web-based technologies, tools and information.

Overseas Travel Clinic

The Overseas Travel Clinic is held from 8:30 a.m. to noon, Wednesday and Friday. For more information call 751-5251.

Community Highlights

This Week

ROCKS, Inc. Leadership Panel
The Fort Jackson Chapter of the ROCKS, Inc., will hold a leadership panel entitled “Mentoring for Excellence: Promoting Leadership Success,” at 11:30 a.m., today, at the NCO Club. For more information, call 751-1898/5421.

AFTB FRG Class
The Army Family Team Building is presenting a Family Readiness Group Leader Basic Training class from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Friday at the Joe E. Mann conference room.
The class includes free child care and you must reserve a seat by Wednesday. Call 751-6315.

Retired Enlisted Association
Chapter 38 meets at 5 p.m., Friday at Moncrief Army Community Hospital, third floor conference room.
All enlisted retirees and active duty pending retirement personnel are encouraged to attend. Call 740-2319 or e-mail jrogers10@sc.rr.com

Victory Riders Bike Ride
The Fort Jackson Victory Riders Motorcycle Club will hold a ‘meet and ride’ at 10 a.m., Saturday at Twin Lakes. For more information call 751-2906.

Red Cross Health and Safety Class
A Red Cross Health and Safety class covering CPR, first aid and the Automated Emergency Device will be held from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday.
Class is open to everyone and registration and payment is required one week before the class. For more information call 751-4329.

WorkKeys Assessment
A WorkKeys Assessment test will be given from 9 a.m. to noon, Monday. The test enhances a resume and demonstrates skill potential to employers.
The assessment costs \$30, and cash only will be accepted on the day of testing. Candidates must preregister by calling 751-5452.

Starting and Running a Small Business
There will be a free seminar entitled “Small Business Development” presented by the University of South Carolina 9 to 11:30 a.m., Tuesday at the Education Center. You must register to attend, call 751-6062.

Military Order of the Purple Heart
Chapter 402 of the Order will meet at 7 p.m., Tuesday at American Legion Post 6, 200 Pickens St. For more information call

776-3117.
AFTB Class
The Army Family Team Building is presenting a Back to Basics Level One class from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday and Wednesday, at 5942-F Thomas Court. The class includes free child care and you must reserve a seat by Friday, call 751-6315.

Employment Readiness Program Orientation
Anyone seeking employment on Fort Jackson or in the surrounding area should visit the Employment Readiness Program for information about employment, education and volunteer opportunities. Topics include job search tips, benefits of using employment agencies, the South Carolina Commission office and more. The next class will be from 9 a.m. to noon, Wednesday. For more information call 751-5452.

MSC SeaFarer Day Job Fair
The Military Sealift Command will host a job fair from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Wednesday at the Embassy Suites Hotel Airport/Convention Center located at 5055 International Blvd. in Charleston. For more information visit www.sealiftcommand.com or call (888) 278-4156.

Retirement Review
The Fort Jackson Retirement Review Ceremony for January is scheduled for 10-11 a.m., Wednesday at Post Headquarters.

Upcoming

Financial Assistance/Scholarships for Family Members
This seminar 9-11 a.m., Jan. 26 at the Education Center, will cover information on federal, state and military financial assistance and scholarship programs.
Each participant will receive a financial assistance/scholarship guide. Must register to attend, call 751-5452.

MOAA Open General Membership Meeting
The Columbia Military Officers Association of America will hold a general membership meeting 9-11:30 a.m., Jan. 27 at the Officers’ Club. The guest speaker will be Brig. Gen. James H. Schwitters and the cost is \$8 for the Buffet which is optional. If you want to attend, you must register by Jan. 25, call 776-7083.
Military Widows/Widowers Association
The meeting is at 2 p.m., Jan. 28 at Moncrief Army Community Hospital, eighth floor. For information call 787-2469.

Financial Planning Class
There will be a Basic Training for Financial Planning from 8 a.m. to noon, Jan. 30 at the Education Center. Register today, call 751-3580.

Richland Two Kindergarten Registration
Richland Two School District registration for kindergarten is being held through Jan. 31. For more information call 738-3210 or e-mail triley@richland2.org

Richland Two Magnet Applications Due
The Richland District Two Magnet Programs and School Choice applications for the 2007-2008 school year are due by Jan. 31. Applications are available online at www.richland2.org. Fort Jackson parents can call the school planning office at 738-3314 or the Fort Jackson school liaison officer at 751-6150 for more information or to pick up a catalog. Information meetings to be held:

Elementary school programs
Center for Inquiry, kindergarten — 6 p.m., Jan. 24 at Center for Inquiry
Center for Inquiry, grades 1-5 — 7 p.m., Jan. 24 at Summit Middle School
Conder Arts Information Meeting — 6:30 p.m., Jan. 25 at Conder Elementary School
Conder Elementary School visitation — 9 a.m., Jan. 26
Forest Lake Science and Technology — 6:30 p.m., Jan. 29 at Forest Lake Elementary School
Center for Inquiry visitation — 9 a.m., Jan. 30
Forest Lake Elementary School visitation — 9 a.m., Jan. 30
Middle school programs
TWO Academies (single gender) — 6:30 p.m., Jan. 22 at Dent Middle School
Leadership Academy — 6:30 p.m., Jan. 22 at E.L. Wright Middle School
The Learning Center — 6:30 p.m., Jan. 22 at Dent Middle School
FAME — 6:30 p.m., Jan. 22 at Dent Middle School
High school programs
All Spring Valley Magnets — 6:30 p.m., Jan. 23 at Spring Valley High School
All Richland Northeast Magnets — 6:30 p.m., Jan. 18 and 23 at Richland Northeast High School

Steps to Federal Jobs
This workshop from 1 to 3:30 p.m., Jan. 31 at the Education Center, will go through every step of the Army Resumix process for federal jobs. Must register to attend, call 751-5452.

Spouses Employment Self-Assessment Class
The next Spouses Employment Self-Assessment class will be 9:30-11:30 a.m., Jan. 31 at the Education Center.



Friday
Eragon (PG) 7 p.m.
Saturday
Blood Diamond (R) 7 p.m.
Sunday
Eragon (PG) 3 p.m.
You can also call 751-7488 or go online to www.aafes.com for movie schedules.

The class teaches spouses about the various military spouse employment options available, how to create a resume and develop a career portfolio. Call 751-5452 to register.

Red Cross Health and Safety Class
A Red Cross babysitter’s training class will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Feb. 3. Class is open to everyone and registration and payment is required one week prior to the class. For more information call 751-4329.

Job Fair
A job fair will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Feb. 7 at the MG Robert B. Solomon Center. For more information visit online at www.morejobfairs.com or call 751-5452/6062.

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Seeks Police Officers
The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department will administer the Darany Entry Level Police Officer Examination at 9 a.m., Feb. 9 on the second floor of the Army Career Alumni Program building, 4600 Strom Thurmond Blvd.
The session, open to everyone, begins with presentations and allows for a question and answer period. To make an appointment call 751-4109, and for more information call (704) 432-1615 or e-mail dharkey@cmpd.org.

Girl Scout Cookies
The Fort Jackson Girl Scout Troop will open a booth Feb. 11 to begin selling cookies at \$3.50 a box at the post main exchange and commissary. For more information call 736-5875.

Seabee Meetings
The Navy Seabee Veterans of America will meet at 7 p.m., Feb. 12 at the West Columbia Metro Chamber of Commerce and Visitors’ Center. Call 755-7792 or 755-0300 for more information.

Child Care Providers Needed
The next Family Child Care training will be held from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Feb. 12-16 and Feb. 22 at 3392 Magruder Ave. Providers can earn extra income while

staying home with their children. This certification program is open to military spouses who live in government quarters and DSS certified off-post individuals. Call 751-6234 for more information.

Audie Murphy Induction Ceremony
The Sergeant Audie Murphy Fort Jackson Chapter will have an induction ceremony 2-2:30 p.m., Feb. 23 at the Joe E. Mann Center.

National Prayer Breakfast
The Fort Jackson National Prayer Breakfast will be held 7-8:15 a.m., Feb. 27, at the NCO Club.
Permanent party Soldiers, DoD civilians and family members are invited. For more information call 751-4358/6322.

Weekly

Civil Air Patrol Meetings
Civil Air Patrol is an official Department of Defense organization aligned under the Air Force with a cadet program for youth ages 12-18 and an adult program as one of America’s largest volunteer organizations.
The group meets at 7 p.m., Monday at Owens Field and 7 p.m., Tuesday at Columbia Metropolitan Airport. For more information e-mail cc@scwg.cap.gov or visit www.scwg.cap.gov

HEROS Meeting
The Helping Everyone Reach Optimum Strength group is meeting 5-6:30 p.m., Thursday at Moncrief Army Community Hospital, seventh floor. It is open to combat veterans and their family members. For information call 751-

Community Highlights

2492/2245.
Medical Board Office Closed
The medical board office is closed from 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Thursday, for administrative time and office training. For more information, call 751-0359/7152/7318.

Overseas Travel Clinic
The Overseas Travel Clinic is held from 8:30 a.m. to noon, Wednesday and Friday. For more information call 751-5251.

Monthly

Rear Detachment Training
Army Community Service Mobilization and Deployment Readiness Program Rear Detachment training is held monthly at Bldg. 2179, Room A-12. RD training is also online at www.myarmylife-too.com.
Units can schedule an appointment by calling 751-5256/7489 or e-mailing Guillory.Patricia@jackson.army.mil.

Announcements

Thrift Shop
The Thrift Shop is always looking for volunteers to work in the shop, with flexible hours and free child care while on shift. For more info call 438-9165.

Legal Office Hours Change
The Staff Judge Advocate Office will hold walk-in hours 1:30-4 p.m. on Wednesdays.
The office will no longer offer Friday morning walk-in hours. For more information call 751-5452/6062.

mation call 751-4287.
Parenting Groups
Moncrief Army Community Hospital will sponsor “Parenting Adolescents Challenging Change,” a 10-week parenting group open to parents of middle school and high school students, and “Cooperation and Parenting,” a 10-week parenting group open to parents of elementary school students.
Groups are open to all valid ID cardholders. Space is limited. If you want to attend or for more information, call 751-2235/2216.

Anger and Stress Management Groups
Moncrief Army Community Hospital will sponsor a 12-week “Adult Anger Management,” group, and a 15-week “Adult Stress Management,” group. Groups are open to all valid ID cardholders. Space is limited. If you want to attend or are interested in more information, call 751-2235/2216.

Recruiting Army Broadcast Specialists
The Army is seeking active duty Soldiers from private to sergeant to reclassify as Public Affairs broadcast specialists, MOS 46R.
Potential recruits must have a 107 GT score, secret clearance or interim secret and must be deployable. In this MOS, Soldiers will learn television, radio, announcing and writing skills. Interested Soldiers will have to take a voice audition, and can call (703) 325-2578 for information.

Government Leave Transfer Program
There is an urgent need for donated annual leave for employees who continue to be affected by Hurricane Katrina.
For the Emergency Leave Transfer Program leave donation form, visit http://www.opm.gov/forms/pdf_fill/opml638.pdf. For more information call 751-6426.

Family Readiness Group Registration
Fort Jackson ACS Family Assistance Center requests Family Readiness Groups at Fort Jackson register with ACS Mobilization and Deployment Program so the information is easily available for spouses and family members. For information e-mail Guillory.Patricia@jackson.army.mil or call 751-7489.

Identity Theft Protection Tool
The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation has released an online multimedia tool that consumers can use to learn how to better protect their computers and themselves from identity theft.
The DVD entitled “Don’t be an Online Victim: How to Guard Against Internet Thieves and Electronic Scams” addresses steps to secure computers and protect them from identity theft, as well as actions consumers should take if they become a victim of identity theft.
For more information on ID theft, call Army Community Services at 751-5256. To order free copies of the DVD, visit the Web site at www.fdic.gov/consumers/consumer/guard/.

ACS Offers Free Workshops
Army Community Service offers workshops on numerous topics, including how to find employment, home buying, Army Family Team Building and parenting classes.
Visit the Web site at www.fortjacksonmwr.com/acs to get a complete listing. Register online or call 751-5256.

All about MOUT

Preparing Soldiers for the real-world with realistic training experience

Chris Rasmussen
Leader Staff

Learning to clear a building of insurgents and enemy combatants is an essential skill all Soldiers must master to survive in today's War on Terror. No matter what their military occupational specialty, combat or combat support, Soldiers many times will have to operate in an urban environment.

Basic Combat Training Soldiers at Fort Jackson are learning these skills in challenging and realistic scenarios at the Military Operations on Urban Terrain site, or MOUT for short.

MOUT sites East and West, located on the far eastern portion of the installation off Johnson Rifle Road, is a mock Iraqi village complete with double-story buildings, C-shaped buildings and buses. The site is large enough for two company-sized units to train on simultaneously.

"I really like this site because it is realistic and provides BCT Soldiers with challenging buildings to clear," said Capt. Daniel Milo, Company D, 2nd Battalion, 13th Infantry Regiment commander.

The buildings are tan-colored freight containers configured to resemble an Iraqi neighborhood, which includes alleys, roads and other realistic features.

With Soldiers playing the parts of insurgents hiding inside the buildings, squads approach the building, cordon it off and enter. The double-story and C-shaped buildings provide the most challenges.

"Double-story buildings are difficult to address, especially for BCT Soldiers, because you don't know what is upstairs," Milo said. "This is why we go from top to bottom instead. Stairwells produce the most casualties."

The C-shaped buildings are also difficult to clear because of the number of windows and places an enemy could fire from.

"When we mess up here, they show us what we did wrong," said Pvt. Lolita Market, Co. D, 2nd Bn., 13th Inf. Reg. "We need to learn to do things correctly before we are deployed because then, it will be too late to do something over again."

When using the site, BCT Soldiers learn how to clear a building, evaluate casualties, search prisoners and send them to the rear as well as perform first aid.

While most units use the site during their seven-day Victory Forge training exercise, some units use it during their three-day Field Training Exercise.

"I am surprised a lot more units don't utilize this site for their three-day FTX," Milo said. "By having my Soldiers here for their three-day, they are ready to go full speed when it comes time for Victory Forge. They know the layout and how it is set up."

Chris.Rasmussen@jackson.army.mil



Pvt. Keith Leggett, Company D, 2nd Battalion, 13th Infantry Regiment, crouches before entering a building during a training exercise at the Military Operations on Urban Training site on Friday.



Pvts. Erica McGowan, left, and Anthony Burell, both of Company D, 2nd Battalion, 13th Infantry Regiment, provide cover so their squad members can enter a building during training Friday at the Military Operations on Urban Training site.



Pvts. Corey Kelley, front, and Troy Ingram, both of Company D, 2nd Battalion, 13th Infantry Regiment, go up a stairwell at the Military Operations on Urban Training site on Friday.

Photos by Chris Rasmussen



Pvt. Brande Sackinger, front, and Pfc. Maria Arango, both of Company D, 2nd Battalion, 13th Infantry Regiment, prepare to enter a building Friday at the Military Operations on Urban Terrain site.



Sgt. 1st Class Caron Jackson, a drill sergeant with Company D, 2nd Battalion, 13th Infantry Regiment, directs a group of Soldiers on how to properly enter a building during training Friday at the Military Operations on Urban Training site.



Basic Combat Training Soldiers from Company D, 2nd Battalion, 13th Infantry Regiment, gather to plan how to approach the mock Iraqi village at the Military Operations on Urban Training site on Friday.

Warrior PRIDE: protecting self, others

Sandra Barnes

Army Substance Abuse Program

Warrior Pride is the Army's substance abuse campaign based on Army values and the Warrior Ethos. Soldiers are America's warriors and we have prides in ourselves, our unit and the United States Army. Soldiers should take pride in their job, uniform, physical fitness and a lifestyle that's free from drug use and alcohol abuse.

Personal courage Possess the personal courage not to use drugs or abuse alcohol and to notify the chain of command of Soldiers who do. Courage not to give in to pressure from friends. Have the personal courage to confront peers who are demonstrating unacceptable behavior due to drugs or alcohol. Courage to force a Soldier to get needed help before he/she hurts themselves or others. Have the courage to inform the chain of command of problems or concerns you have about drugs or alcohol within your unit.

Respect Show your respect to the Army, your unit, fellow Soldiers and yourself by staying drug free and drinking responsibly.

Integrity Stay true to Army values and the Warrior Ethos by supporting the Army's drug and alcohol policies. Demonstrate integrity by identifying and complying with your legal and moral obligations.

- Don't use drugs
- Don't drink and drive
- Report drug abusers
- Don't abuse alcohol
- Don't give alcohol to Soldiers younger than 21
- Don't drink if you are younger than 21
- Don't take someone else's prescription drugs
- Don't let anyone else take your prescription drugs

ASAP Calendar of Events

Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention and Training Program is a two-day class for those interested in learning more about alcohol and drug abuse, and will be held from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Feb. 12-13 at 3250 Sumter Ave. It is also for those who the command feels could benefit from re-education.

Unit Prevention Leader training will be held from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Feb. 21-23 at 3250 Sumter Ave. It is required training for newly assigned unit prevention leaders and includes training on drugs and alcohol, biochemical testing and substance abuse prevention. Seating is limited, and the duty uniform is required. Please do not schedule appointments during class time.

The Fort Jackson ASAP *Unit Prevention Leader of the Year Award* is designed to recog-

nize outstanding performance by the best Unit Prevention Leader on Fort Jackson.

UPLs must qualify for the award by conducting a flawless urinalysis collection, passing urinalysis inspection, having a Standard Operating Procedure and providing four hours required annual training to Soldiers in their unit.

Editor's Note: *The Army Substance Abuse Program provides prevention/education to the community on topics pertaining to alcohol and other drug usage. ASAP maintains a wide selection of pamphlets and videos that can be used to get a further understanding of the dynamics of substance abuse and use. ASAP staff is available to give presentations on alcohol and drug abuse. For questions about classes offered or about substance abuse, call 751-5007.*

Duty Do your duty as a Soldier and stay physically and mentally tough by not using drugs or abusing alcohol. Every Soldier needs to perform his or her duties as technically and tactically as possible. You cannot do your duty if you are abusing drugs or alcohol. It is your duty not to take illicit drugs and not to abuse alcohol. It's your duty to report Soldiers who take illegal drugs or report to work drunk (your life and the lives of others may depend on it). It's your duty not to drink alcohol if younger than the age of 21 or to provide alcohol to other Soldiers younger than 21.

Excellence Exhibit honorable behavior on and off duty — don't be a substance abuser. Honor America, the Army, your unit and your fellow Soldiers

by helping to make our Army "Drug Free." Help others to make honorable decisions not to use drugs or abuse alcohol. Demonstrate honorable behavior on and off duty and set the example for others to follow in regard to alcohol and drug abuse.

Maintain your Warrior Pride-Don't Drink and Drive.

Don't leave a Soldier behind on the battlefield, in a bar or at a party.

Remember your Warrior Pride.

Editor's Note: *The source for this article was the Army Center for Substance Abuse. For more information on Warrior Pride or the Army Center for Substance Abuse please visit their Web site at www.acsap.army.mil. If you have any questions about substance abuse, call 751-5007.*

Definition of a South Carolina divorce

Capt. Chris Roten
Legal Assistance Attorney

Although marital dissolution is something no one wants to experience, statistics show almost one out of every two marriages ends in divorce. The following outline of the divorce process in South Carolina is a useful overview for those facing separation.

Grounds for divorce

In South Carolina, there are five grounds for divorce: separation of the spouses for at least one year or no-fault divorce; adultery; physical cruelty or abuse; habitual drunkenness including both alcohol and drugs, and desertion.

The proof needed to allow the court to grant a divorce on one of these five reasons depends on the circumstances. The lawyer will ask about your unique situation and advise you about the case. Testimony from a third party will probably be required. State law requires that a family court judge make a specific finding that reconciliation is not possible before the judge can grant a divorce.

Family courts

In South Carolina, family courts handle all marital litigation. The family courts decide: whether to grant a divorce, child support, child custody and equitable division of marital property. Family courts can also grant a request to allow a person to resume use of a maiden or previous name. Family courts also handle separation actions which may include: custody, visitation, support and division of property.

Agreements

By working together, spouses are often able to decide issues without court intervention. When such agreements are reached, the parties have settled their case. When a couple has settled their issues, their lawyers will present the agreement to the court and request that the judge approve the agreement. If the court finds the agreement fair, reasonable and voluntary, the agreement will become an official court order.

Custody and visitation

When parents cannot agree on who should have cus-

tody of their minor children, the court must decide. Custody litigation is an expensive procedure and often very emotional. Both parents should look honestly at their new living conditions, available time and other resources and consider carefully which parent can provide a better home life for their children. Because neither parent automatically has a legal right to custody, the court will consider the best interests of the children. The court may order joint or shared custody. Children who have reached an appropriate level of maturity may express their preference to the judge. However, a child's preference is not controlling. Minor children will be appointed a guardian ad litem to represent them in court and recommend which parent should be awarded custody. Non-custodial parents can be awarded periods of specified visitation with their children. If circumstances surrounding custody and the child's best interest change substantially, the family court can then order a change of custody or visitation.

Support

Spousal support is called alimony. Either spouse may be entitled to monetary support from the other. Alimony can be paid in a lump sum or in installments. Where appropriate, the family court can award short-term alimony to help a spouse upgrade or acquire job skills that could make him or her self supportive. Both parents have legal responsibility to provide economically for their children. A non-custodial parent usually will be required to pay a specified amount of child support to the custodial parent. In determining the appropriate amount, the court must use the Child Support Guidelines that provide a calculation of support based on the gross income of the parents. The court can order that child support payments be made through the clerk of court along with a collection fee. Many employers offer an automatic payroll deduction for child support payments.

Procedure

The process begins formally by the service of a summons and complaint (legal papers setting out what the plaintiff, or party starting the suit, wants). The defendant (party on whom the summons and complaint are served)

Legal Assistance Office

Fort Jackson's Legal Assistance Office is located in the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, 9475 Kershaw Rd., and is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Thursday. Appointments can be made by calling 751-4287.

The office accepts walk-ins for living wills, health care powers of attorney and durable powers of attorney, 1:30-3:30 p.m, Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Walk-ins are welcome for general legal questions and are accepted 1:30-4 p.m., Wednesdays.

has 30 days after being served to file a formal written response (answer) and to request any other relief (counterclaim).

The court may order the parties to attend mediation to resolve the issues, especially custody and visitation. The court may also order that parties attend a parenting course that deals with families going through a divorce.

If the parties can settle their case, the court holds an abbreviated hearing. If the parties cannot settle, then each side can present evidence at a trial to show why the court should grant the relief wanted. After trial, the judge decides what relief should be given. A temporary hearing will be held if there are any issues that must be decided before the final hearing. At a temporary hearing, evidence usually is presented by affidavit without witnesses taking the stand. Except in cases involving separation, there is a two-month waiting period after service of summons and complaint before a divorce action can go to trial and three months before a decree can be issued.

Judge Advocate General

The Fort Jackson JAG office can provide further information regarding divorce in South Carolina. While they can provide advice and information concerning divorce in South Carolina and Army regulations, they cannot represent you in a South Carolina Family Court. If you would like to talk about divorce or support of child custody please call the Legal Assistance Office at 751-4287 to schedule and appointment with an attorney.



The following are selected incidents developed from reports, complaints, incidents or information received from the Fort Jackson Provost Marshal Office.

The incidents reflected are not an adjudication attesting to the guilt or innocence of any person and are provided for informational and reflective purposes only.

Lt. Col. Greg Vibber

Director, Emergency Services/Provost Marshal

Master Sgt. Allen Taylor Jr.

Provost Sergeant

Cases of the Week

A Soldier notified the Military Police of a traffic accident.

Investigations revealed that a vehicle traveling westbound failed to yield the right of way and struck another vehicle, which was traveling southbound on Washington Road, causing disabling damage to both vehicles.

One driver sustained minor injuries to both hands and the other was cited for **Failure to Yield the Right of Way**.

A Soldier notified the Military Police of a **Larceny of Private Property**.

The investigation revealed that an unknown person(s) gained access to a platoon storage room and removed various personal items that belonged to several Soldiers. The investigation is continuing.

The Provost Marshal Office was notified of a **Domestic Assault** in progress. Upon arrival of law enforcement, the spouse informed officers that she was pushed by her Soldier spouse following a verbal altercation.

The Soldier was not at the residence when the officers arrived but reported to the station later that same day.

He was advised of his legal rights and admitted to the above offense, then released to his unit. The spouse declined medical treatment.

Provost Marshal Tip of the Week

Drivers need to be cautious of their speed in the housing community.

Children are always playing in the neighborhoods and drivers need to be aware of them. The posted speed limit in these areas is 20 mph. The Community Oriented Police section "COPS" and other patrolmen actively monitor traffic movement. Please watch your speed.

FORCE PROTECTION THOUGHT OF THE WEEK

DEFEATING THE
THREAT REQUIRES
A DEDICATED,
LONG-TERM
EFFORT

In 2007, “me and my house” will continue to serve the Lord; we invite you to join us.

3-13 set to defend post championship

Heath Hamacher
Leader Staff

The 2007 post active duty winter intramural basketball season is in full swing, and the first games were played Tuesday at Vanguard and Coleman Gyms.

This year, 19 teams will vie for the post championship, claimed in 2006 by 3rd Battalion, 13th Infantry Regiment. After falling into the loser's bracket, 3-13 stormed into the championship round and swept two games from top-seeded Soldier Support Institute, 54-35 and 51-41.

Tracy Brooks, 3-13's head coach, said her team is used to playing with its back against the wall.

"We seem to have a history of winning during the regular season, getting to the playoffs, losing the first game and finding ourselves fighting to get out of the loser's bracket," Brooks said. "We were able to hold SSI off by putting pressure on the ball, forcing them to turn the ball over quite often. We scored easy layups down the stretch, and that put us in a winning position."

Despite letting a post title slip out of its grasp, SSI took the loss in stride.

"I'm not disappointed, I'm happy right now," SSI coach Phillip Larmond said after the 2006 championship. "We went out there, gave it our all and played with our hearts. You can't be disappointed with that."

A probable unit transfer for Larmond will mean SSI will have to fill the coaching vacancy. Arthur Mohead, a three-year veteran player for the team, is expected to step up. Mohead is cautiously optimistic,

citing a lack of chemistry as his team's biggest potential obstacle.

"We have two guys returning from last year's squad, but they were not the 'go to guys,'" Mohead said. "The top players from that team are gone. I think our weakness will be our team being unfamiliar with each other."

While SSI faces a rebuilding phase, Brooks is confident her team has the nucleus to make another run at the championship.

"Fortunately, I have three players returning and they are all key players," Brooks said. "We also have a few new players that will contribute tremendously to the team. We have a bigger team in the paint this season and we look forward to dominating the boards."

There are no complex schemes in mind, and teams need not scratch their heads trying to figure out the defending champs' strategy. The old adage is "defense wins championships," and 3-13 is buying into it.

"My outlook this season is to play solid defense, apply pressure to these teams and force them to make turnovers that will allow us to get the easy layups."

Mohead feels like his team lost to a better club in the championship game, but isn't ready to concede defeat this season just yet.

"It's hard to make those championship games, but who knows — maybe we will get lucky this year," he said.

Or maybe one of the other 18 teams will.

Heath.Hamacher@jackson.army.mil

Sports Briefs

Sports Club Interest Meeting

A Sports Club interest meeting will be held at 6 p.m., today at the Youth Center for anyone ages 13-18. For more information call 751-5610/5040.

Spring Youth Soccer Registration Open

Registration for youth ages 3-18 soccer ends Feb. 1. The fee is \$30 for the first child, \$27 for additional children, and includes a jersey, shorts, trophy and end of season potluck. Games begin Feb. 24.

A skills assessment for ages 9 and up and a free soccer clinic will be held 6 p.m., Feb. 6. Players must be registered with Child and Youth Services. For more information call 751-5610/5040.

Darts Deadline

The deadline to enter intramural and recreational darts is Tuesday. The season begins Jan. 25.

Swim Meet

A swim meet will be held at 6 a.m., Feb. 22 at Knight Pool. Swim meet names with events due to the Sports Office by Feb. 13.

Volleyball

Letters of intent for intramural and recreational volleyball are due to the Sports Office by Feb. 28.